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Control:
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OCTOBER 14, 1959

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FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 378, OCTOBER 14, 4 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 378, BONN 337, REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 119,
LONDON 106, PARIS 95

REF OURTEL 377 TO DEPARTMENT, 336 TO BONN

IN PREPARATION FOR MEETING POLADS SCHEDULED SATURDAY, OCTOBER
17 (FINAL NUMBERED PARA. OURTEL 367 TO DEPT, 325 TO BONN),
USCOB AND USBER HAVE REVIEWED FLAG INCIDENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS.

IN OUR VIEW THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SITUATIONS WHICH WE MAY
FACE IN COMING WEEKS OR MONTHS : (1) SITUATIONS REQUIRING
EMERGENCY POLICE ACTION WHERE NO ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO
COMMANDANTS BY WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES POSSIBLE, AND
(2) SITUATIONS WHERE CIVIL DISTURBANCES HAVE NOT COMMENCED
AND THERE IS TIME FOR CONSULTATION. IN LATTER CASE WE WOULD
PROPOSE THAT COMMANDANTS INSIST ON BEING CONSULTED IN THOSE
SITUATIONS THAT THREATEN INVOLVE INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATIONS
OR NATIONAL PRESTIGE OF ALLIES OR GERMANS, REGARDLESS OF
WHETHER ONE SECTOR ALONE OR ALL THREE INVOLVED.

WE SHALL TAKE POSITION PROTEST TO SOVIET COMMANDANT PROBABLY
DESIRABLE FIRST STEP IN CASES OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES
INSTIGATED FROM EAST, BUT NO PROTEST REQUIRED OR DESIRED IN
EVENT ANOTHER FLAG INCIDENT AS ALLIED PROTESTS ALREADY ON RECORD
AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROMPT AND DECISIVE ACTION.

AS TO WEST BERLIN PLANS FOR COPING WITH REPETITION FLAG INCIDENT
SENATOR OF INTERIOR LIPSCHITZ LATE OCTOBER 9 SUBMITTED
OUTLINED PLAN OF ACTION ALONG LINES REPORTED OURTEL 353
TO DEPT, 311 TO BONN. HE CONTINUED BASE HIS PLAN ON "USE OF

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PERMANENT

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ALLIED FORCES TO SUPPORT POLICE MEASURES...BY DEPLOYING MILITARY PERSONNEL." PLAN, HOWEVER, DID NOT GIVE FULL OPERATIONAL DETAILS.

ON MATTER USE OF ALLIED FORCES WE FEEL COMMANDANTS SHOULD STRESS TO LIPSCHITZ HIS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT GERMAN POLICE AND ALLIED TROOPS SHOULD NOT BE MIXED IN INITIAL ACTION. HOWEVER, NO OBJECTION HAVING ALLIED UNITS ON ALERT BUT IN RESERVE. OF COURSE NO TROOPS WOULD BE USED UNTIL IT BECAME CLEAR WEST BERLIN POLICE NO LONGER CAPABLE OF HANDLING SITUATION. THIS IN ACCORD WITH U.S. COMMANDER'S TERMS OF REFERENCE RE HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IN U.S. SECTOR AND ALSO IN KEEPING TRIPARTITE PLAN FOR DEFENSE BERLIN.

LIPSCHITZ PLAN COVERS ACTION IN "3 ZONES." OUR THINKING NOW IS THAT IF FLAG INCIDENT REPEATED WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES SHOULD REMOVE FLAGS IN ALL THREE ZONES. HALF MEASURES WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE. (OUR EARLIER POSITION EXCEPTING ACTION ZONE 3 WAS BASED ON EXPEDIENCY IN EFFORT OBTAIN BRITISH AND FRENCH AGREEMENT.) GDR HAS CONTINUED TO EXPLOIT FLAG-FLYING EPISODE AND WOULD CERTAINLY FEEL IT HAD ACHIEVED VICTORY IF IN REPEAT SITUATION ONLY HALF MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST THEIR FLAGS IN WEST BERLIN. IN THIS CONNECTION, HOWEVER, WE WOULD HAVE TO OBTAIN FROM LIPSCHITZ DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLANS AND HAVE THEM EVALUATED BY OUR MILITARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFS TO INSURE NO BACKFIRING.

EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO CONVINCE BRITISH AND FRENCH NECESSITY DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLANS BEFORE NOVEMBER 7 THAT WILL PRODUCE PROMPT DECISIVE TRIPARTITE ACTION AND LEAD TO EFFECTIVE POLICE MEASURES. (NOV 7 IS ANNIVERSARY RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, NEXT HOLIDAY ON WHICH THERE WILL BE LARGE-SCALE DISPLAY OF FLAGS IN EAST BERLIN.)

THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITTED USAREUR AND CINCEUR THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

LIGHTNER

PJD

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